

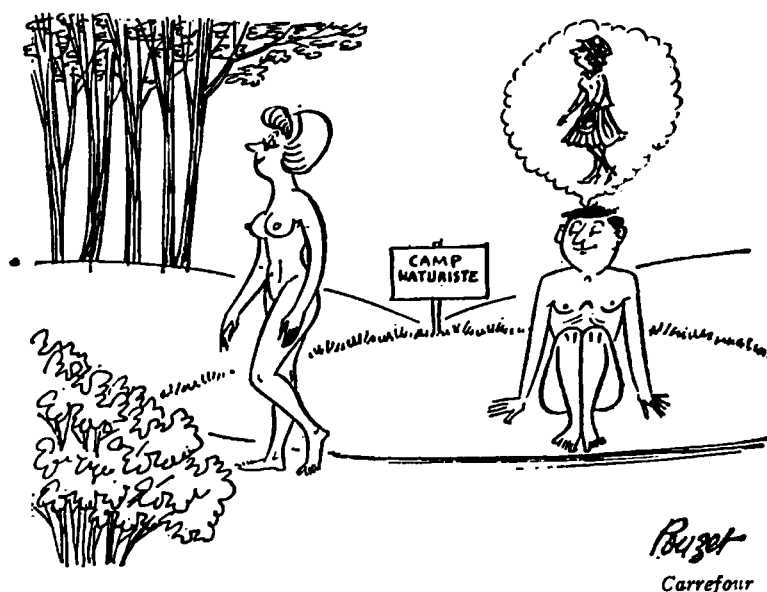
• Abroad •

Jakarta. As Caesar Alexander Bonaparte Sukarno presses his imperial expedition toward Australia, the correspondent of the London *Economist* summarizes the condition of the Liberator's home territory: "All the earmarks of a state in collapse are present, from inflation and hoarding to corruption and administrative chaos. By the end [of 1961] the gold and foreign exchange reserves were down to a point so near zero that no statistical sleight of hand could disguise the fact. . . . Rice imports, already the highest for any country in the world, are still rising; at least in the cities, rice is selling at up to twenty times the official price; there is malnutrition and even, in some parts of Java, famine. . . . Cholera and smallpox complete a dismal picture. . . . Since the Dutch transferred sovereignty to the Indonesians more than twelve years ago, and were physically expelled in 1957, the old excuse that colonialism was to blame for Indonesia's troubles no longer holds water. . . . Given Indonesia's financial and economic condition, the irresponsibility of purchase [of arms] on such a scale, and of a policy of violence in West New Guinea, is matched only by Mr. Khrushchev's blithe shouldering of the burden [through credit grants]. In the long term, however, he may well feel that his gamble is worth while. Indonesia is potentially a rich country. . . . Its Communist Party is the biggest and strongest in Asia outside China. . . . If ever the Russians feel like foreclosing, they will not be short of local helpers to sustain their own technicians."

New Delhi. With respect to most of India's great traditional problems, Liberty and Enlightenment are strictly export products. Cow troubles, for example, have grown continuously worse, not better, since independence. "Slaughter of cows and calves and other milch or draft cattle" is prohibited by Section 48 of the Constitution. This prohibition, combined with some use of antibiotics, has raised the cattle population to more than a quarter of the world's total. Most of the divine beasts are economically worse than useless. They supply neither milk, meat nor power, nor will the devout wear leather footwear even if from animals which die peacefully of old age. The cows wander around, blocking traffic and stealing food from shops, fields and even cottages. And as for the 80 million Untouchables—now politely referred to as "the scheduled castes"—the bulk of them, apart from a few showcase politicians who are prominently displayed to foreign visitors, continue to live in a depth of segregation which in both rigor and misery makes the most backwater county of Mississippi seem like an egalitarian Utopia.

London. With the first commercial hovercraft ferry scheduled to start operations across the Dee estuary next month, and a do-it-yourself "hover scooter" kit about to be put on the market, Parliament has suddenly confronted the perplexing question of what traffic, licensing and other

rules apply to this multiple threat air rider. A measure defining hovercrafts as "road vehicles" for legal and administrative purposes has just been adopted, but it is recognized that this can be no more than a stopgap in relation to a vehicle that is as much at home on water as on land, and that can effortlessly glide through fields or lawn to gain the shortest distance between two points.



Damascus. A minimum result of the rising ferment in the Arab world will probably be another coup, and shift of regime, in Syria. The faction continuing to favor union with Egypt proved its strength by engineering the escape to Cairo of Nasser's closest Syrian ally, Colonel Serraj, for whose arrest a reward of 20,000 Syrian pounds had been offered. Since Nasser's all-out swing to "Arab socialism," the pro-Egypt faction has tended to fuse with the pro-socialists, to the alarm of the more conservative groups, among whose influential members is Minister of Finance Khouri. He, with about half President Kudsī's cabinet, has resigned. These Syrian confusions have their counterparts throughout the Arab Middle East: Communist-supported Kurdish revolts in northern Iraq, Iraqi claims on Kuwait, anti-Nasser moves by the Saudi Arabians, rising disputes between orthodox Moslems and the modernist or secular city intellectuals, the rising star of the FLN in the Arab Maghreb, and the un-closed question of Israel.

Cairo. The Italian magazine, *Borghese*, reports Nasser's latest plan for reviving Egypt's once flourishing tourist trade. He is going to build an Egyptian Williamsburg, where, "for the modest sum of \$32, American tourists and others with such amounts to spend can live like Pharaohs for a day. Near the pyramid of Cheops a 'pharaonic' city is to be built, complete with restaurants, hotels, bars, dance halls, and shops for the purchase of souvenirs, postcards, scarabs—everything in the 'pure Egyptian classical style.' Modern vehicles will be forbidden to enter the town; transportation will be handled by 'imperial carriages,' horses, camels, elephants, etc. Public services will be in charge of government employees dressed in ancient attire. . . ."

Copyright of National Review Bulletin is the property of National Review Inc. and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.